

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N1/28 C12M3/08 B02C19/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N C12M B02C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 4 505 433 A (SELENKE WILLIAM M) 19 March 1985 (1985-03-19) cited in the application | 1-13, 15-59, 62 |
| A | column 8, line 56 - column 9, line 59; figure 4 | 60 |
| A | WO 00/02031 A (SAMAAN NASHED ; LAMINA INC (US); EL AMIN MARIANNA (US); GUIRGUIS RAOUF) 13 January 2000 (2000-01-13) page 11, line 15 - line 30; figures 1,3,5 page 20, line 4 - page 21, line 12 page 24, line 14 - page 25, line 9 | 1,57,60 |

-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/02/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Hocquet, A

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| A | US 5 636 921 A (MURATA HIROSHI ET AL) 10 June 1997 (1997-06-10) column 5, line 25 - column 6, line 55; figure 1 column 8, line 37 - column 9, line 45; figures | 1,57,60 |
| A | WO 02/48679 A (ROGGERO GIANMARCO) 20 June 2002 (2002-06-20) cited in the application page 2, paragraph 3 - page 3, paragraph 4; figures 3,4 | 1,57,60 |
| A | EP 0 590 504 A (HOFFMANN LA ROCHE) 6 April 1994 (1994-04-06) column 7, line 39 - column 8, line 35; figures 1,4,12-14 | 1,57,60 |
| A | GB 247 943 A (AMOS CAMPBELL HAMEY) 5 May 1927 (1927-05-05) page 2, line 85 - line 114; figure 1 | 1,57,60 |
| A | GB 2 100 137 A (COULTER ELECTRONICS) 22 December 1982 (1982-12-22) page 2, line 87 - line 113; figures 3,4 | 1,57,60 |
| A | US 4 715 545 A (HANIFL PAUL H ET AL) 29 December 1987 (1987-12-29) | |
| A | US 5 390 859 A (RAJASEKARAN AYYAPPAN K) 21 February 1995 (1995-02-21) | |
| A | WO 91/02590 A (DU PONT) 7 March 1991 (1991-03-07) page 14, line 24 - line 35; figures 7-14 | 1,57,60 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IE2004/000152

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 63-64
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Rule 6.2(a)

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Information on patent family members

PCT/IE2004/000152

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
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| WO 0002031 | A | 13-01-2000 | AT AU AU CA CN DE DE EP JP WO US | 228650 T 758047 B2 5090999 A 2336093 A1 1136445 B 69904179 D1 69904179 T2 1093572 A1 2002519692 T 0002031 A1 6830935 B1 | | 15-12-2002 13-03-2003 24-01-2000 13-01-2000 28-01-2004 09-01-2003 24-07-2003 25-04-2001 02-07-2002 13-01-2000 14-12-2004 |
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| US 5390859 | A | 21-02-1995 | WO | 9509701 A1 | | 13-04-1995 |
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